

**QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM**

**LIST FOR**

**WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA**

Issues Program List Herein  
Covers the Period  
APRIL 1, 2011 through JUNE 30, 2011

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      04/01/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

A raid at a Chicopee Cyber Cafe may just be the beginning. It seems officials on both the state and local level are using every tool they have to put a stop to these gaming businesses. The Cafeno Cyber Cafe is now the subject of an illegal gambling investigation by the state police and the attorney general's office. Internet Cafes like this one operate sweepstakes games customers are given points or dollars to play casino-style games with the opportunity to win cash prizes. Springfield City Solicitor Ed Pikula said sweepstakes games are legal, but these cyber cafes are touting the line. This week the city issued cease and desist orders at five internet cafes in the city not for gambling but for zoning violations. Any business that operates more than five video machines or computers is considered a place of amusement, requiring a special permit. But Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera wants to take it further banning cyber cafes from operating sweepstakes games at all. In a statement to 22News, she said, ""These businesses prey on the elderly and working poor. Allowing them to spring up in neighborhoods across the Commonwealth, without proper oversight or regulation, is simply unacceptable." The Massachusetts State Lottery is also opposed to these internet cafes, a spokesperson told 22News they often take away from lottery-generated revenue for cities and towns.

**News                                      04/04/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

A man who arrived at the hospital with a gun-shot wound is not helping police find out what happened to him. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that a man was dropped off to Mercy Medical Center just after 11 this morning. The man was transported to Bay State Medical Center and will survive his injuries. Police say they received a call about shots fired in the area of St. James and Harvard Street this morning but they couldn't find evidence of a shooting. The violence has frustrated some in the neighborhood.

**News                                      04/04/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

The investigation continues into the March 18th sewer-line break in Agawam. 22News cameras went back to the site today which has been cleaned up since an unauthorized backhoe allegedly broke a 10 inch waste water pipe causing sewage to spill into the Westfield River and nearby meadows. According to Agawam police Detective Lieutenant Richard Light, police know the name of the man responsible for operating the unauthorized backhoe while 2 other men watched. They say it occurred on March 17th. The responsible parties didn't report the sewage leak. Instead it was reported by the manager of a nearby turf farm the following day.

**News**                                      **04/05/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Police are looking for the thieves who took \$10,000 worth of steel beams. Sergeant Delaney told 22News that the six 40 to 50 foot beams were stolen from Associated Building Wreckers at 223 Brookedale Drive. Delaney says that smaller metal thefts are common, and that the thief's turn the metal in for scrap. This is a much bigger case. This is a thirty ton heist, and police say whoever stole it needed heavy equipment to get away with the steal beams. Builders say metal thefts are becoming a big problem.

**News**                                      **04/06/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police say they caught two men breaking into a vacant home, trying to take the copper piping. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told 22news Rolando Pabon and Roberto Vega were arrested around six last night after a man told police he saw a home was being broken into on Jefferson Street. Delaney said the copper piping in the home was in the process of being cut up. Delaney said thieves have been breaking into vacant homes and stealing copper piping for profit.

**News**                                      **04/08/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Police hope a drug raid in Springfield will put a dent in drug dealing in the city's north end. Sgt John Delaney told 22news Daniel Sanchez was arrested during a drug raid at 1506 Dwight Street Thursday night. Delaney said officers found a large quantity of heroin packaged for sale inside the apartment. They also found nearly \$6,000 in cash and packaging materials. 44-year old Sanchez was charged with heroin possession with intent to distribute and violation of a drug free school zone.

**News**                                      **04/10/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

It was supposed to be fun but early this morning, another teenager's birthday party turned dangerous. This time 4 people were stabbed and one was shot. Springfield police say uninvited guests shot and kicked their way through the door and began to fight. This is the second time a teenage birthday party turned dangerous this year. Less than a month ago 16 year old Kevin Gomez was shot and killed while he was at a Sweet 16. The five who were injured are expected to be okay.

**News**                                      **04/10/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

There was more violence in the city this morning with a shootout between 4 men and police. Captain Cheryl Clapprood told 22News at around 2:00 this morning, four black men in a car fired shots at another car at Barnes and Hillman Streets. When police arrived, the men turned their guns on the officers. An officer returned fire and chased the vehicle. The men got away at the intersection of Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue. Police are looking for a four door blue Acura with damage to the rear of the driver side. If you have any information, you are asked to call Springfield Police Department at 787-6355.

**News**                              **04/12/11**                              **5:30pm**                              **: 30**

There was a violent assault at the Colonial Village Apartments in Amherst around 8:00 last night. According to the Amherst Police, a 20 year old man from Belchertown was reportedly attacked by three or four men and was hit over the head with a beer bottle. The victim suffered a head wound. Now, police believe they have one of the alleged assailants in custody. 19 year old Lennox C. Williams of Amherst was arrested last night. He was arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court this morning.

**News**                              **04/12/11**                              **5pm**                              **: 30**

A man who was arrested at the Peter Pan Bus Terminal Monday night after becoming violent and allegedly claiming he had a bomb is now charged with a murder that took place in Springfield a month ago. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that Roger Nay was charged with the March 13th murder of Craig Fish. According to Delaney Fish died after being stabbed during a fight at his Maple Street home. Delaney said Nay was charged with murder after he was interviewed by detectives.

**News**                              **04/13/11**                              **6pm**                              **: 30**

The TD Bank on Main Street in Northampton was robbed this afternoon. According to Sgt. Jody Casper of the Northampton Police Department, the bank robbery happened just after three this afternoon. Police received a report about a man robbing the bank with a knife. Shortly after the robbery, police arrested a 37 year old man from Northampton in connection with the theft. His identity has not been released. But, the suspect has been charged with armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and shoplifting.

**News**                              **04/13/11**                              **6am**                              **: 30**

New this morning, a 35 year old man from Springfield is recovering in the hospital after being shot in the stomach during a home invasion involving drugs. Police were called to Judith Street just before 11 last night. Lt. John Slepchuk told 22news that police confiscated 15 to 20 pounds of marijuana and a large amount of cash inside the house. The case included an estimated \$500,000 in Iraqi money, plus \$24,000 in American cash.

**News**                              **04/14/11**                              **6pm**                              **: 30**

Springfield police make an arrest in the case of some stolen steel. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News, that Rodney MacDonald of Wilbraham was arrested this morning in Wilbraham. MacDonald was arrested on warrants that stem from the larceny of \$10,000 dollars worth of metal from a metal company on Brookdale Drive in Springfield earlier this month.

**News**                              **04/14/11**                              **5pm**                              **: 30**

Napoleon Ray Sivley of Springfield has been sentenced to up to 12 years in prison for fatally stabbing another man he had been drinking with in his apartment. Sivley was sentenced in connection with the June 2009 stabbing of Joshua Laporte. Prosecutors say Laporte was

among several people who had been drinking at Sivley's apartment but were asked to leave. They say Laporte returned and knocked on Sivley's door, demanding to be let back in. Sivley then stabbed Laporte through the heart. His lawyers called it self-defense and requested a five to seven-year prison term.

**News**                                      **04/17/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Two young men are spending the Patriots day weekend behind bars for allegedly being found where they shouldn't have been. 20 year old Rathama Thann of Amherst and 19 year old Anthony Wilson of South Hadley allegedly turned up inside the Amherst tire company on College Street Saturday night after the place had closed. Amherst Police Lt. Ronald Young notified 22News the building alarm gave them away. And, the two of them were reportedly dressed in black and were carrying masks.

**News**                                      **04/17/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

New this morning, 40-year-old Ada Marin is under arrest after stabbing her boyfriend at 26 Summit Street in Springfield around 2:30. Captain Cheryl Clapprood of the Springfield Police Department told 22News they had a verbal argument and Marin claims he assaulted her so she grabbed a knife and stabbed him three times. He's being treated for a punctured lung at Baystate Medical Center. He's expected to be okay.

**News**                                      **04/20/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Still no arrests after two teens were shot in a parked car in the Mason Square area of Springfield. Springfield Police Officer Richard Rodrigues told 22News one of the teens was shot in the stomach and is in stable condition, the other was shot in the leg, and both are expected to survive their injuries. The shooting happened at a gas station at the corner of State and Cortland Streets not far from American International College, which prompted a campus-wide alert.

**News**                                      **04/20/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Northampton Police are still trying to determine who stole \$40,000 dollars worth of computers from Yes Computers on Pleasant Street Sunday night. Two men dressed in ski masks broke through the back door of Yes Computers late Sunday night. The break in did trigger alarms but the robbers only took two and a half minutes to steal \$40,000 worth of computers, ipads, and ipods from the store. Police believe this was an organized hit that may be connected to at least four others throughout New England.

**News**                                      **04/20/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Two Springfield teens are recovering after being shot while sitting in a parked car in mason Square. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that three teens were at a gas station at the corner of State and Cortland Streets when someone opened fire on the car. One of the teens was shot in the stomach. The other was shot in the leg. The third person

was not wounded. Sgt. Delaney says police believe there were at least four attackers involved in the shooting. Anyone with any information please call the Detective Bureau at 787-6355, or "text-a-tip".

**News**                                      **04/21/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

New this morning, a man is recovering in the hospital after he was shot outside a bar in Springfield. Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22news that a man was walking out of the Chessman Lounge around 2 this morning when he was shot three times. He is now at Baystate Medical Center in serious condition. Captain Claprood said police are looking for two black men wearing black hooded sweatshirts.

**News**                                      **04/24/11**                                      **7am**                                      **: 30**

Two women from Springfield were taken to Baystate Medical Center after being shot at 15-17 Ringgold Street in Springfield. Springfield Police Lt. John Slepchuck told 22News they received a call around 12 this morning a 45-year-old woman was shot in the leg. She was treated and released. A 38-year-old woman was rushed to surgery. She is in the Intensive Care Unit and is in serious condition. No suspects have been arrested. Police are looking for a black man last seen wearing a black hoodie and pants. He was last seen on Hebron Street in Springfield. Anyone with any information should call the Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or "text-a-tip".

**News**                                      **04/25/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

An arrest has been made following a bank robbery in Amherst. According to the Amherst Police Department, the Bank of America on South Pleasant Street was robbed shortly before 11:00 this morning. This was not an armed robbery; instead the suspect presented a note, demanding money. The suspect did get away with cash but police later arrested 24 year old William Oldershaw of Sunderland. He's being charged with unarmed robbery. Oldershaw is being held on \$2,500 cash bail and is expected to be arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court tomorrow.

**News**                                      **04/25/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Police are looking for Springfield native Tamik Kirkland who escaped from the minimum security prison in Shirley. Kirkland is serving time on weapons convictions. A prisons spokeswoman says the 24-year-old Kirkland was reported missing from MCI-Shirley shortly after 7:30 this morning. State and local police and the Department of Corrections' fugitive apprehension unit are now looking for Kirkland. Kirkland started serving a 2 1/2 to 4 year sentence in October of 2009.

**News**                                      **04/25/11**                                      **4:30am**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee Police are looking into some robberies in the city. Detective Christopher Lareau told 22News that just after midnight on Sunday two men broke into the Honeyland Farms

store on Newbury Street. A group tried to rob this Honeyland Farms Store last Monday, but they couldn't get inside. The Fairview Deli was robbed around 3:30am. Just a short time before that attempted break-in. In both cases, the thieves only took cigarettes and lottery tickets. Police are trying to determine if these break-ins are connected.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A second arrest took place today in Monday's downtown Amherst bank robbery. Amherst Police Lieutenant Ronald Young told 22News that police arrested Shayna Henckel-Miller this morning in the unarmed robbery of the South Pleasant Street Bank of America branch. Police arrested William Oldershaw shortly after yesterday's robbery. Both suspects are from Amherst. Lt. Young said Henckel-Miller was with Oldershaw at the time of the robbery and helped him prepare the demand note.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

28-year-old Joseph Testa of Revere is being held on bail on allegations that he brutally beat his girlfriend's 5-year-old son. Testa was arraigned on numerous charges after the boy was found unconscious near his home last week. The 5-year-old had massive bleeding inside his skull and bruises all over his body. He underwent emergency surgery and remains in stable condition. The boy's mother is demanding privacy.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police are searching for a suspect tonight after a teenager was stabbed during a fight. Springfield Police Lt. John Bobianski told 22News police were called to Wilmont Street around 8:15 tonight after a large fight started in the street. Lt. Bobianski says the 15 year old victim was found lying in the road on Beaumont Street with a stab wound to his left side. The victim was taken to the hospital and is expect to be okay. No arrests have been made.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Holyoke detectives are talking to witnesses to help them find suspects in a Shooting in South Holyoke. Holyoke Police Sgt. Daniel Reardon told 22News that the as yet unidentified victim was shot twice; once in the arm, and once in the groin at around 10 tonight behind 5 Adams Street. Reardon said the victim, a Holyoke man in his 30's, was taken to the hospital. He said the man was conscious, but he had lost a lot of blood.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Ludlow police have charged three teens with spray painting and damaging statues at a church and soccer field. Members of Our Lady Fatima were crushed by the damage, but a customer card at the local ace hardware store, pointed police in the right direction. Neighbors and church goers of Our Lady Fatima were stunned by this graffiti. Last Monday, pieces these statues were broken and lewd symbols and words were painted on shrines, as well as a display of the Stations of the Cross, some too graphic to show on TV. Now

Sergeant Louis Tulik says two 14 year olds and a 15 year old face charges including tagging, and vandalism over \$250 dollars. Officers asked Rockies Ace Hardware Assistant Manager Karen Shepard to match the paint to the cans they sell. They then tracked the purchase because one of the boy's mothers had used their Ace customer card, thinking the paint was for the teens bikes. But while suspects are charged, church members like Susan Martins say it may take a while for their community to heal. Lusitano Stadium just down the street from the church was also vandalized.

**News**                                      **04/27/11**                                      **4:30am**                                      **: 30**

This morning Paper Mill Elementary workers will try to wash off some of the graffiti that was painted on the school's walls. Westfield Police are still trying to figure out who's responsible for this vandalism. Sergeant Paul Beebe told 22News they don't have anyone in custody yet, but they have leads they're working on. Some of the obscenities have been painted over. But parents say the damage has already been done.

**News**                                      **04/28/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee Police need your help finding two men wanted on outstanding warrants. Police want to question these two men; Sammy Ramos and John Daniels regarding recent break-ins into several convenience stores. If you have any information you're asked to call the Chicopee Police Department at 592-6341.

**News**                                      **04/28/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Also in Amherst reports of shots being fired on East Hadley Road led to a drug arrest. Lieutenant Ronald Young told 22News Police arrested 21 year-old Somrathona Soeng of Holyoke on drug and disorderly conduct charges late Tuesday night. Lt. Young said Soeng had cocaine packaged for sale and a large amount of cash. No weapon was found.

**News**                                      **04/29/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating a shooting outside the Bank of America branch in mason square. Springfield Police are investigating a shooting that wounded two victims. Springfield Police Sgt. Chris Hitas told 22News that, "two male shooting victims showed up at Mercy Medical Center. Their conditions are not known." Sgt. Hitas told 22News that the shooting took place at about 10:10 pm Thursday at 555 State Street. No one's been arrested so far.

**News**                                      **04/30/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

We are following breaking news out of Springfield, where Springfield Police commissioner William Fitchet says body armor saved the lives of two police officers who were shot this afternoon. One of them was a Springfield Police Officer. One was a State Trooper. Both of them are okay tonight. But there are three other shooting victims, including the alleged shooter, who police say escaped from a minimum security prison this week. Police say he opened fire in a State Street barber shop, killing one of two victims inside. The gunman fired



at police a block away on Cambridge Street. Police believe the gunman is 24 year old Tamik Kirkland who escaped from the Massachusetts Correctional Institute in Shirley on April 25. He escaped from MCI Shirley last Monday after his mother was shot and wounded on Ringgold Street in Springfield. According to a representative from the state's office of public safety, Kirkland escaped from the Shirley prison in the overnight hours, he was in minimum security at the time, but she would not go into details about how he managed to get out. He is currently in serious condition after undergoing surgery at Baystate.

**News**                                      **04/30/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Massachusetts State Police made 13 arrests at the sobriety checkpoint on Memorial Drive in Chicopee. State Trooper Brian Clapprood told 22News 10 out of the 13 arrests were for operating under the influence. The other three were firearm charges. Lt. John Healy says they try to cover a wide area to prevent these issues from reoccurring.

**News**                                      **05/01/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A further development late this afternoon in Saturday's Barber shop murder case. Springfield Police along with the Massachusetts state police have an arrest warrant for 30 year old Trevin Smith of 79 Penrose Street in Springfield. Authorities notified 22News that Smith is believed to be an accessory after the fact in Saturday's slaying of Sheldon Innocent at Bill Brown's House of Beauty on State Street. Police consider Smith armed and dangerous.

**News**                                      **05/01/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

A family of three is recovering after two men showed a handgun and entered in their home at 81 Gold Street in Springfield. Lt. John Slepchuk told 22News two armed and masked men force their way into the home around 2:30 this morning. The suspects got away with \$300 and a cell phone. The family suffered minor injuries. Police are still searching for two black men. Anyone with any information is asked to call the Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or "text-a-tip".

**News**                                      **05/04/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Juan DeJesus of Springfield is charged with the kidnapping and rape of his wheel chair-bound ex-girlfriend. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that DeJesus kept the woman in his apartment against her will for 2 weeks threatening to hurt her and her son. The woman was finally able to convince DeJesus to take her to her apartment to get some clothing. Once she was at the apartment, she managed to shout for help, and her neighbors came to help her. If you are a victim of domestic or sexual abuse you can call the Springfield Police Department's Special Victim's Unit at 787-6352.

**News**                                      **05/05/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee Police need your help tracking down a bank robber. Take a look at the man Chicopee Police Sergeant Jeffrey Nadeau told 22News robbed the Aldenville Credit Union on

Grattan Street around 11:30 this morning. He grabbed some cash and took off toward Marcelle Street. Police are looking for a grey or silver Honda or Toyota with a spoiler on the back and Connecticut license plates. If you have any information, you're asked to call Chicopee Police at 592 - 6341.

**News**                                      **05/05/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Four people have been arrested in connection with an alleged Mexican drug ring based in Easthampton. According to an Easthampton Police Department news release the men were arrested in a series of drug raids in Easthampton, Northampton, Hadley and Chicopee Monday. About 3 kilograms of cocaine and drug packaging material was seized from an apartment at 322 Main Street in Easthampton. Police allege that Joaquin Carillo of Easthampton was part of a Mexican gang that was distributing large quantities of cocaine in Western Massachusetts.

**News**                                      **05/06/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

This afternoon's find is just one of more than a dozen containers full of suspicious and potential hazardous liquid discovered in the city in the past two weeks. The Holyoke Police and Fire Departments are dealing with the discovery of the 15th suspicious container found in the city since last week. Holyoke Fire Lt. Tom Paquin told 22News that a half-full gallon jug was left on the sidewalk near the corner of Center and Lyman Streets in the city's Flats section. The jug was filled with a clear liquid. Lt Paquin said the container is similar to others discovered recently. Those containers found earlier reportedly were connected to an area meth lab, but not necessarily in Holyoke. The regional hazardous material team and the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad are helping with the investigation.

**News**                                      **05/06/11**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

17-year-old Matthew Worster of Easton he's facing charges for allegedly murdering his mother and burying her in the backyard. Prosecutors say he was upset over his parents divorce and planned the killing and burial. Worster pleaded "not guilty" in court, yesterday pleaded to armed assault with intent to murder. His mother, 42-year-old Beth Spartichino, had last been seen Wednesday morning. Investigators found her body in the backyard of her home in Easton, early yesterday.

**News**                                      **05/06/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Cops say a series of busts took down a Mexico connected cocaine ring based in Easthampton. Six locations were raided. Cops seized 3 kilograms of cocaine at 322 Main Street. Sergeant Domenic Serino told 22News that 29 year old Joaquin Carillo, 30 year old Pablo Drullard, and 24 Julio Vidal-Harmedia are being held without bail and federal drug charges. Yitzark Kaluche who is 32 is being held on \$100,000 dollars bail on state charges. Residents couldn't believe such a drug ring was operating in their town.

**News**                                      **05/07/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield man is under arrest after a raid at a 4th floor apartment at 220 Pearl Street near Police headquarters a few hours ago. Police confiscated what were described as illegal firearms. Lt. John Slepchuck told 22news they obtained a search warrant and went in around 5 this morning. The Massachusetts State Police Special Tactical Operations team found the illegal firearms. In addition to the man arrested, one person is being questioned. This is a joint investigation with State Police, and Springfield, Monson, and Chicopee police departments.

**News**                      **05/08/11**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

The Hampden County District Attorney's office has now taken over the case of the Holyoke man who was arrested early this morning, after he allegedly dumped containers filled with mysterious substances. Now seventeen suspicious containers have been found throughout Holyoke. Saturday morning around 8, Holyoke police, fire, and state hazardous materials were called to Community Fields near Cherry Street. A car was towed away where one of the containers were found in the trunk. Two more were found in the park. Before this there were 14 other gallon jugs scattered throughout the city of Holyoke. This time it was found in a park directly adjacent to a neighborhood full of kids. 13 others tested positive for methamphetamine residue which is suspected to come from a meth lab somewhere in the area. This scares many parents and neighbors. If you happen to come across a suspicious container, do not touch or smell it, just notify the fire department.

**News**                      **05/09/11**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

John Robert Finnie the man Holyoke police believe may be responsible for leaving suspicious containers around the city pleaded not guilty at his arraignment this morning. The 35-year old answered to charges of disorderly conduct and transportation of hazardous materials during an appearance in Holyoke District Court. Finnie was arrested Saturday after someone saw him allegedly drop off some jugs around the Community Fields Park in Holyoke just blocks away from his home. During the last two weeks 18 suspicious containers have been discovered at locations around the city. The liquid inside the jugs has tested positive for meth-amphetamine residue.

**News**                      **05/09/11**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

A Ludlow man is fighting for his life tonight after police say he was attacked outside a bar. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News police arrested 20 year old Brandon David Anderson of Indian Orchard this afternoon. Delaney says Anderson attacked the unidentified 22 year old Ludlow man outside the Reagle Beagle in Indian Orchard around 2 this morning. The victim hit his head on the pavement and is in critical condition. Anderson will be arraigned Monday morning on assault and battery charges.

**News**                      **05/10/11**                      **6am**                      **: 30**

A man was reportedly tasered by Westfield Police last night. Police say he was recklessly shooting his gun around his apartment. Police say they had to taser a man here at the

Brookside Apartments in Westfield last night. Police say 43-year-old Ronald Skrotski was shooting recklessly, inside his apartment here and he was also firing his gun out on his porch. Neighbors told 22News that his wife was inside the apartment with him while he was firing the gun. But Police Lieutenant Michael Ugolik told 22News it wasn't a hostage situation, he describes it as a 'domestic disturbance'. Police arrived at the complex around 7 after receiving several calls about hearing shots being fired. Skrotski was outside when police arrived. Police Sergeant Eric Hall says he wasn't armed but he wasn't cooperating and police had to taser him.

**News**                                      **05/10/11**                                      **4:30am**                                      **: 30**

And Springfield Police need your help tracking down this man -- who was caught on camera breaking into a home in Forest Park. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News surveillance cameras caught the suspect walking out of a home on Mansfield Street where he allegedly stole a laptop. The home owner had a video surveillance camera pointed at the front door and caught the crime on tape. If you recognize this man, call the Springfield Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or anonymously "text-a-tip".

**News**                                      **05/10/11**                                      **4:30am**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee police arrested a bank robbery suspect. A police news release says Anthony Rivest was arrested on Monday by Chicopee detectives and state troopers at the West Springfield Comfort Inn. Rivest is accused of holding up the Alden Credit Union on Grattan Street last Thursday. Inside Rivest's room, police said they found cash and what they believe to be plans for another robbery. Rivest is being held on \$100,000 bail.

**News**                                      **05/11/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Two Massachusetts corrections officers were suspended for allegedly threatening escaped inmate and murder suspect Tamik Kirkland. The calls made to Baystate Medical Center may have been made to ensure extra overtime but they could now lead to criminal charges against the officers. Tamik Kirkland escaped from the Shirley State Prison allegedly seeking revenge against a shooting that injured his mom. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News he quickly became the prime suspect in a series of shootings across the city that culminated with a rampage at a barber shop that killed 24 year old Sheldon Innocent. As he tried to escape, he shot a Springfield police officer and a state trooper who returned fire. But several phone calls came in for Kirkland, Springfield police traced the phone calls back to correctional officers who had been watching the suspect. Diane Wiffin, a spokesperson for the department of corrections told 22News, quote, "When a DOC investigation revealed that a number of calls were made to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, some of which were threatening in nature, may have involved DOC staff, immediate action was taken. Two staff members were suspended." The Hampden County District Attorney's office is now handling the investigation into possible criminal charges. Kirkland has been transferred out of Baystate Medical Center to a secure Dept. of Corrections facility. He will face charges when he's able to appear in court.

**News**                                      **05/12/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Holyoke Utility worker was hit by flying glass from a bullet that went through his windshield today. Holyoke Police Lt. Michael Higgins told 22News at least two people were shooting at each other at Spring and Main Streets just before noon today. One of the bullets came through a Holyoke Gas & Electric truck. The worker inside went to the hospital for minor cuts. Cops found lots of shell casings, but so far, no suspects.

**News**                                      **05/12/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

An Agawam auto repair shop is among the latest area businesses to be targeted by scrap metal thieves. Jim Davignon, owner of Valley Automotive told 22news thieves have made off with a pile of scrap metal he intended to trade for cash. Davignon said he believes the theft took place sometime Tuesday night. And the crooks knew what they were looking for.

**News**                                      **05/16/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

63-year old Willie Willis of Holyoke was ordered held on \$50,000 cash bail in connection with the accidental shooting of a 16 year old girl. Lt. Michael Higgins told 22News Willis was showing his girlfriend how to safely handle a .45 caliber pistol when the gun went off. The bullet hit the 16-year old girl in the stomach. Her name was not released, but investigators said she was sleeping in the next room. She is in stable condition at the hospital. Willis pleaded not guilty to several charges including assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. He returns to court on June 15 for a pretrial hearing.

**News**                                      **05/16/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police made a quick arrest after the Starbucks on East Columbus Avenue was robbed. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 44 year old Michael Messier of Holyoke was arrested at Dwight Street and Falcon Way shortly after the hold-up at five this morning. According to Delaney Messier went into Starbucks implied that he had a weapon took some money and ran out the door. No one was hurt.

**News**                                      **05/17/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

An alleged accomplice in a barbershop murder is back in Massachusetts, held on \$500,000 cash bail. Trevin Smith was arraigned in Springfield district court this morning on charges of being an accessory after the fact. Smith is accused of helping alleged gunman Tamik Kirkland escape the barbershop after a shooting that killed Sheldon Innocent and wounded the barber. Two police officers were also hurt after a second round of gunfire. Kirkland was shot and seriously injured by police; Smith was arrested in New York a few days later. Innocent's mother Emily Innocent was in court and told 22News she plans to be in court for every proceeding.

**News**                                      **05/17/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

More reports of house breaks in Amherst, and apparently victims are making it easy for the bad guys. There have been at least five break-ins in the last week and police believe at least three of them are related. Those three took place on Pine Street in Amherst, according to Amherst Police Chief Scott Livingstone. Another burglary happened in the Pufton Village Apartment Complex and one happened in South Amherst. In all of the cases, the burglars entered the homes or cars through unlocked doors. They stole small amounts of cash and small electronics.

**News**                                      **05/19/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Edwin Olivo has been charged with drug trafficking in Connecticut after he tried to pick-up a delivery with more than \$6,000,000 worth of cocaine. Olivo was in an Enfield courtroom yesterday to face narcotics charges. Police arrested Olivo when he arrived at this ups site to pick up a package. That's where the cocaine arrived from Puerto Rico in a secured plywood box. Besides being busted with nearly 250-pounds of cocaine, police say Olivo also had four cell phones and more than \$1,000 dollars on him.

**News**                                      **05/20/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

And Holyoke Police are looking for two people involved in last night's hold-up of the TD Bank branch at the Ingleside Mall. A white man in his 20's walked in, and threatened to detonate a bomb-like device he showed the teller. He had shoulder-length purple hair that may have been a wig. He got away in a gray, 4 door Chevy. If you have any information please call the Holyoke Police at 536-6431.

**News**                                      **05/20/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Southwick business is closed after Southwick and Westfield police, along with Homeland Security officials raid the building. Southwick and Westfield Police with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security seized most of the inventory of J Nine Fashion at 549 College Highway in Southwick yesterday. Southwick Police Sgt. Robert Landis told 22News the merchandise was confiscated because it is believed to be counterfeit. Over 2,000 items were seized including handbags, scarves, hats, and jewelry as well as business records. According to Sgt. Landis all the merchandise had trademark logos and police are working with an outside company to help determine if any of the items are authentic. Police believe the store's inventory came from New York and Connecticut. No one has been charged at this time. Southwick Police will be seeking a complaint through Westfield District Court and those involved will eventually be summonsed to court. Sgt. Landis told 22News police believe J Nine Fashion is connected to the former Julie's Fashions in Agawam. Sgt. Landis says the U.S. Department of Homeland Security still has an open case against Julie's Fashions dating back to 2009. The investigation into J Nine Fashion began about a month ago when Southwick Police began to receive information about the business. Sgt. Landis told 22News the name listed on the J Nine Fashion license is Thuy Pham.

**News**                                      **05/22/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Carlos Gonzales Beslanga was stabbed to death on Cumberland Street in Springfield yesterday; his 3 children witnessed the murder. Now a manhunt is underway for the alleged killers. The widow is anguished trying to cope with the loss of her husband and the father of her children. 4:30pm, Saturday police found Beslanga, lying in a pool of blood a stab wound to the heart in the alleyway next to home where his family lives. His was visiting from Connecticut. Police rushed Beslanga to Baystate Medical Center. Just 15 seconds away from the place where he was stabbed, too late to save his life. Now a manhunt is launched to bring justice to Beslanga's alleged killers. The two alleged killers are still out there somewhere. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News, 37-year old Luis Cintron and 33 year old Noemy Ramos of 66 Cumberland Street are wanted for murder.

**News**                                      **05/24/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Police in Holyoke and Northampton are investigating an early morning shooting. According to Holyoke Police Captain Arthur Monfette, the victim is Brian Weston of Florence. Monfette told 22News Weston apparently shot in Holyoke but then drove to Northampton. He got as far as the Shell Station on Pleasant Street and then he stopped to get help for a bullet wound to his leg. Weston was treated at Baystate Medical Center, but Monfette said he is not cooperating with police.

**News**                                      **05/24/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Vandals targeted The Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society animal shelter in Springfield three times in the past week. Take a look at the damage to the Union Street Animal Shelter building in the South End. A brick shattered part of the triple plate glass front door. Another brick smashed the window leading to where the shelter keeps the cats awaiting adoption. And someone threw a rock through a front window.

**News**                                      **05/25/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

A Massachusetts state trooper is in the hospital after being struck by a hit and run driver. Authorities say the accident happened in a Boston tunnel along the mass pike, yesterday. The officer was conducting speed enforcement when he was hit by the unknown driver who sped away from the scene. Investigators are now reviewing security cameras in the tunnel to try and track down the driver and car.

**News**                                      **05/25/11**                                      **4:30am**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police say they are still searching for the man reportedly responsible for the city's 8th murder of the year. Police say 37-year-old Luis Cintron allegedly stabbed Carlos Beslanga in the chest on Cumberland Street on Saturday. Cintron is still on the run, but 33-year-old Noemy Ramos surrendered to police on Monday night. Ramos pleaded not guilty to a charge of being an accessory to murder, after the fact, at her arraignment yesterday. And was ordered held on \$150,000 cash bail. If you have any information, please call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787 - 6355 or "Text-a-Tip."

**News**                                      **05/26/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A teacher is has been placed on administrative leave for inappropriate behavior with a student. Chicopee Police Chief John Ferraro told 22News his department is investigating the situation. He would not go into details about what happened because the case is still evolving. 22News placed several calls into the superintendent of schools; his office said they have been in meetings on the issue.

**News**                                      **05/26/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

A follow-up now to a 22News I-Team investigation involving one mother's claims that a teacher's assistant gave her 14 year old daughter a sexually explicit book. Sgt. David Kane told 22News enough evidence was presented at yesterday's probable cause hearing for charges to be filed against Khalid Watt, a paraprofessional at Duggan Middle School in Springfield. Sgt. Kane said Watt has been charged with "Dissemination of Obscene Matter to a Minor." Melissa Goldrick filed a police report when her daughter brought home the book. She said she hopes Watt is convicted of the charges.

**News**                                      **05/26/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Rodney Briggs of Springfield has been sentenced to up to 28 years in prison after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter in connection with a fatal shooting inside a city strip club. Briggs also pleaded guilty in Hampden Superior Court on Wednesday to firearms charges in the January 2009 death of Jose Colon inside the Mardi Gras club. Authorities had previously said there was some kind of confrontation between the two men prior to the shooting that sent other customers and dancers scrambling for cover. Briggs was arrested without incident about a month after the shooting in Atlantic City.

**News**                                      **05/28/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Bank robbers have been targeting Springfield area banks lately. A man claiming to be an eyewitness told 22News he was standing right next to the man who held up the Boston Road branch of TD Bank across from Eastfield Mall this afternoon. The witness who asked not to be identified told 22News he saw the man hand a note to a teller, and then fled from the bank with his pockets stuffed with cash.

**News**                                      **05/28/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

You might know the man who held up the Ludlow branch of Chicopee Saving's Bank Friday afternoon. Ludlow Police Detective Sgt. Tom Foye today gave 22News this picture of a man captured by a surveillance camera inside the bank at 477 Center Street. Foye believes this is the man who passed a note to a teller demanding money before he escaped with the money in a silver four door sedan. Police believe he then drove to the Massachusetts Turnpike. Sgt. Foye said that if you can identify this man please call Ludlow Police at 583-8305.

**News**                                      **05/28/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**



A 24-year-old man is recovering this morning after being shot in the calf in Springfield. Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News the shooting happened at a party at 75 Bowles Street around midnight. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center and is expected to be ok. Police are searching for a black man suspected in the shooting. They say he was at the party and is described as balding.

**News**                                      **05/28/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

Fifteen minutes after that, a house was fired at leaving bullets at the door. Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News 21-year-old Alexi Carruchini and 20-year-old Roberto Serhano has been arrested for the shooting at 142 Cedar Street in Springfield. Both are charged with assault and battery. Police say they have the gun and plan on searching their home on Raymond Place.

**News**                                      **05/29/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested 18 year old Troy Harris for allegedly shooting another young man in the leg. According to Springfield Police Captain William Collins, the shooting happened just before 9:00 this evening at a party on Belmont Ave. Police have not released the identity of the victim who is recovering at Baystate Medical Center.

**News**                                      **05/30/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

It was touch and go for a Springfield shooting victim who was bleeding profusely after the bullet reportedly had severed his femoral artery. The shooting happened at a large party yesterday evening behind a building at Belmont Avenue and Hall Street in the Forest Park Neighborhood. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan told 22 News there were anywhere from 25 to 50 people at the party, including the victim and the two men arrested for shooting him. Sgt. Moynihan said 18 year old Troy Harris of 42 Hall street was charged with armed assault with intent to murder. The man who allegedly provided Harris with the gun, 23 year old Kalan Pool of 282 Dickinson Street was charged with being an accessory. As for the 24 year man who was shot, he's coming along fine at Baystate Medical Center.

**News**                                      **05/31/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Brian Hurley of Springfield is accused of lifting up his girlfriend's car with a forklift then dropping it with her inside. Authorities said the 41-year-old and his girlfriend argued over money as she drove him to work at a warehouse Saturday. She told police Hurley slapped her, got out of the car and kicked it, then got in the forklift, carried the car several feet, and dropped it. Hurley fled, but was found at his home several hours later. He was ordered held on \$500,000 cash bail.

**News**                                      **06/01/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police need your help identifying a man suspected of passing counterfeit money. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News he used \$300 in counterfeit money to load up a pre-paid debit card at the State Street CVS Saturday night. If you recognize this man, you're asked to contact the Springfield Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or use "Text-a-Tip".

**News**                                      **06/03/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Springfield police officer has shot and wounded two people in the city's South End. Police spokesman Sgt. John Delaney told 22News someone flagged down officers to report an assault. Officers followed the suspects to a parking lot at the corner of Union and Dale Streets. That's when the suspects allegedly attempted run over officers who had cornered them in the parking lot. The suspects suffered superficial wounds, one in the arm and the other in the leg. Officers were not injured during the incident. Delaney says the incident is not related to looting in a city hit hard by tornadoes two days ago. No other information was immediately available.

**News**                                      **06/06/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A 22News follow up now, Springfield Police have identified one of the suspects shot by police after allegedly attempting to run over the officers. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 48 year old Darryl Thomas of Springfield is charged with assault by means of a dangerous weapon, a car. According to Delaney, two officers were flagged down by an assault victim near Maple Street around 4:30 this afternoon. The victim pointed out Thomas who was driving a maroon SUV. That's when officers attempted to pull over the car.

**News**                                      **06/07/11**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

Police in Monson have arrested a woman for allegedly obtaining help while pretending to be a tornado victim. Sgt. James Boucher told 22News 46-year-old Christine Lajewski of Ware claimed she lost everything in the tornado and she received a freezer, clothing, food and other donated items. But according to Sgt. Boucher, Lajewski has never been a Monson resident. Police are concerned about scams that will victimize both town residents and tornado relief organizations.

**News**                                      **06/07/11**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

A man was stabbed multiple times early this morning in Chicopee. It happened on Elcon Drive around 2:15 this morning. According to Capt. Thomas Charette the 31-year-old victim from Springfield underwent surgery this morning at Baystate Medical Center. The victim's name isn't being released. Capt. Charette said that a confrontation between two groups started at a club continued at a convenience store and then led to the stabbing on Elcon Drive. No arrests have been made.

**News**                                      **06/15/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Former Massachusetts House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi was convicted of corruption today. DiMasi and an associate were found guilty today in a scheme to steer two state contracts worth \$17.5 million dollars to a software firm in exchange for payments. Defense attorneys said the payments were legitimate. DiMasi was convicted of conspiracy, extortion, and Fraud. Lobbyist Richard McDonough was convicted of conspiracy and fraud, while accountant Richard Vitale was acquitted.

**News**                                      **06/15/11**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

Police in Amherst have arrested two men they say were caught breaking into cars. 32-year-old Joseph Trombley of Holyoke was arrested, yesterday and 42-year-old Roger Bancroft of Belchertown surrendered to police, later in the day. Both have both been charged with breaking and entering, larceny over \$250-dollars and malicious destruction of property.

**News**                                      **06/16/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Police in Springfield are investigating a shooting that happened early this morning. The shooting happened just before 2 this morning in the area of Worthington Street and Stearns Square. Sgt. Julio Toledo told 22news that the victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center. His condition is unknown at this time. Police are still searching for suspects. If you have any information, please call the Springfield Detective Bureau at 787-6325 or you can text a tip.

**News**                                      **06/16/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

The FBI blocked off a major street in Feeding Hills and police evacuated an apartment building. The FBI was searching for some hazardous or dangerous items there. FBI special agent Greg Comcowich told 22News, the investigation is over, but the FBI does not comment on their operations. Comcowich would not say if they found anything. But today did feel like déjà vu for some neighbors on Springfield Street. Going off a tip, The FBI searched the apartment building at 1162 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. Police evacuated the building as a precaution in the morning. At this time there is no indication that anyone has ever been harmed by these items which may have been stored at the location for quite some time. Springfield Street was shut down for much of the day in Feeding Hills, from the Stop n' Shop plaza to the Sacred Heart Church. This apartment building back in 2004 was searched, that's when the FBI found the biological toxin resin. Seven years ago, when we had the situation with Michael Crooker we had HAZMAT, we had FBI, we had homeland security and it had all the makings of that all over again. Crooker entered a guilty plea and as a part of that agreement is set to serve 15 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Monday in Boston, but Special Agent Delauriers would not say if Crooker gave him this information. Springfield Street reopened around 2:40 this afternoon when the FBI wrapped up its investigation.

**News**                                      **06/16/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Police believe they have tracked down one of the suspects wanted for a series of bank robberies in our area. Springfield Police did arrest a man who they believe is responsible for robbing the TD Bank here on Boston Road this weekend. This man is also suspected of

robbing another TD Bank in Holyoke last month. But this investigation is far from over. Police need your help tracking down two other men who they believe are also involved. Springfield Police say more arrests are possible, and they're looking for two other men. 25-year-old Gumersindo Gonzalez of Springfield was arrested yesterday for the robberies. Police say Gonzalez and the other two men were wearing hoodies. They walked into the bank, handed the teller a note, saying they had a bomb then they fled. The robbery at the TD Bank in the Holyoke Mall last month was similar. 2 men were involved and one man showed the teller a bomb-like device. If you have any information, please call Springfield or Holyoke Police. And another interesting point, this TD Bank has been robbed three times in less than a month.

**News**                                      **06/19/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

A 26 year old man was shot and killed early this morning in Holyoke. Sgt. Larry Kanoier of the Holyoke Police Department told 22News the victim was a Hispanic male. He was shot once in the face and was rushed to the Baystate Medical Center where he died. Right now police are interviewing witnesses to try to piece together exactly how this happened. According to the police they believe there was an initial argument between the victim and his killer or killers, but they think that argument took place somewhere else before he was shot. Police say they do not have any suspects. If you have any information you're asked to call the Holyoke Detective Bureau at (413) 322-6900.

**News**                                      **06/20/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

No bail for a Springfield man accused of stabbing a Connecticut man to death in Springfield one month ago. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that 37-year old Luis Cintron turned himself in at police headquarters this morning. 32-year old Carlos Beslanga was stabbed in the chest in an alley near Cintron's mother's house in Springfield's north end May 21st. Police believe Cintron confronted Beslanga, who was urinating in the alley. Cintron was ordered held without bail during his Springfield District Court arraignment on a charge of murder. Cintron's girlfriend Noemy Ramos was also charged in connection with Beslanga's murder.

**News**                                      **06/20/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A 22News follow up on the murder in Holyoke this weekend. We now know the name of a Holyoke murder victim. Captain Arthur Monfette told 22News the man is identified as 26-year-old, Oscar Castro of Holyoke. He was shot early Sunday morning on High Street in front of the Clover Cafe. There have been no arrests yet in the case. Anyone with information on the fatal shooting is you're asked to call the Holyoke Detective Bureau at 322-6940.

**News**                                      **06/21/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

The two murders come just two months after the retirement of long time police Chief Anthony Scott. 26-year old Oscar Castro was gunned down in front of the Clover Cafe early Sunday

morning. Less than 48 hours later, a 23-year old man, Reynaldo Fuentes was shot during an argument outside a market on Appleton Street. The violent episodes have shaken city residents. Some are worried the departure of former police Chief Anthony Scott is having a devastating effect on the city. Police are still searching for a suspect in connection with Sunday's murder, but three brothers have already been arrested and charged for Monday's shooting.

**News**                                      **06/21/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Three brothers were arraigned today for the murder of 23-year-old Reynaldo Fuentes of Holyoke. Fuentes' murder was Holyoke's second homicide in less than 48 hours. Carlos Perez and his brothers' Leonardo, and Juan were all ordered held without the right to bail after pleading not guilty to murder in Holyoke District Court today. Fuentes was shot several times last night on Appleton Street. Juan Perez surrendered within hours of last night's shooting. Carlos and Leonardo turned themselves in around midnight. Holyoke Police Captain Arthur Monfette told 22News Juan Perez reportedly stabbed Fuentes in the arm two weeks ago, but its unclear why the two were fighting. There was a large police presence at Holyoke District Court for today's arraignments.

**News**                                      **06/22/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police are crediting a pair of Air Jordan sneakers with assisting in the arrest of two burglary suspects. Springfield police department spokesman Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that Emmanuel Velazquez-Garcia and Lyndsay Paquette were arrested early this morning. According to Delaney they were discovered in the area of an apartment break-in on Oswego Street. Delaney said police found a perfect footprint from an Air Jordan sneaker on a door that had been kicked in at the apartment. And it matched the Air Jordan's one of the suspect's was wearing. Both suspects face breaking and entering and other charges.

**News**                                      **06/23/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

The capture of notorious mob boss Whitey Bulger marks a historic day in Boston. Neighbors in South Boston who knew Whitey Bulger have mixed feelings. Some are glad he's caught, while others are sad and remember him as a man who was kind to his neighbors. The legend in this South Boston neighborhood is 81-year-old James Bulger, nicknamed Whitey Bulger, after his platinum blonde hair. A violent mobster wanted by the FBI for his alleged role in 19 murders, his capture draws mixed feelings. 60 years ago this neighborhood used to be known as the Old Harbor Housing Project where a young Whitey Bulger grew up. Now little remains of the old neighborhood. Old people have moved out, new people have moved in, but the rumor and gossip of the old mobster that used to roam these streets remains. Bulger owned two local businesses in South Boston, including a Liquor Mart that has since switched hands. Despite Bulger's reputation of violence, some people in Southie remember him as a kind man who they say kept crime in the area under control. Again, reaction in South Boston was mixed. Those who were sad that Bulger was caught said he was a generous man who let you take things from his store on credit. Others who were glad that he was caught said that if you accepted any favors from Bulger, you had to return the favor threefold.

**News**                      **06/23/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

David Pixley of Great Barrington was ordered held without right to bail in connection with several arson fires that damaged two businesses in town. Pixley was arraigned in Southern Berkshire County District Court this afternoon. Great Barrington Police Sgt. Paul Storti told 22news the 62-year-old David Pixley was taken into custody around 3:30 this morning. Two fires were set Monday in two buildings in the area of Bridge and Main streets. Five other buildings and three vehicles nearby were also targeted.

**News**                      **06/23/11**                      **12pm**                      **: 30**

Another looting arrest in the tornado ravaged area of Springfield. Springfield Police Sgt. Dennis Prior told 22News 44 year old Kenneth Bolden of Springfield was arrested around 5:30 this morning for stealing items from a condemned house on Spruce Street. Sgt. Prior told 22News a laptop computer, small TV, and some DVD's were among the items taken. The arrest was made by a special Springfield Police patrol working in the areas of the city damaged by the tornado.

**News**                      **06/23/11**                      **6am**                      **: 30**

Shaun Davis was in an Eastern Mass. courtroom yesterday after being accused of stealing a cell phone from a car in a cemetery. What makes it worse is that the phone contained the only pictures of the owner's deceased child. The 26-year-old was arrested and charged with larceny over \$250 and breaking and entering. The phone has not been found. The heartbroken family says all they want is the phone's memory card back.

**News**                      **06/23/11**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield Police are searching for whoever it is that left several soda bottle bombs around the city. Springfield Fire Department Spokesman Dennis Leger told 22News that firefighters went to 116 Dwight Road in the Forest Park section of Springfield, after a soda bottle bomb exploded in their driveway. The arson and bomb squad removed two more bottles that did not explode. Leger says several other bottles have been found around the city over the last ten days. 22News went to Dwight Road and talked with the homeowner. She did not want to go on camera, but she told 22News, she and her husband heard what sounded like a firework around 1:30 this morning. They ignored it, but both noticed some bottles in their driveway when they left for work. After some investigating, the woman said it was a shampoo bottle with a rock in it, an ice tea bottle and a vitamin water bottle in pieces, they had been filled with some liquid and foil strips. If you have any information about the soda bottle bombs, you're asked to call the Springfield Detective Bureau at 787-6355. Leger told 22News that this is a serious and dangerous crime and whoever is leaving the bottles will be prosecuted. The difference between trash and bottle bombs are that the bombs would be placed on your lawn or driveway, standing, suspicious looking, expanding to the point of breaking, and with objects inside. If you see them, do not try to pick them up or throw them away, call 911. They are very dangerous.

**News**                                      **06/24/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

There was a violent armed robbery in Chicopee this morning. It all happened at 5:15 when a man armed with a very large revolver pointed his gun at the clerk of the Sam's Food Store and gas station on Chicopee Street. He tried to get inside the bulletproof booth that the clerk was in and when he couldn't he started firing shots at the booth. That's when the clerk electronically locked the doors to the store to keep the robber inside that prompted him to shoot at the door. Captain Thomas Charette of the Chicopee Police Department told 22News that the suspect fired 5 to 6 shots. Luckily, no one was injured and nothing was stolen. But, police do need your help finding the suspect who's described as a 5'10, light skinned man, who was wearing a dark hoodie and jeans. If you have any information that could help police, you're asked to contact the detective bureau at 413-594-1730.

**News**                                      **06/26/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Two men were stabbed tonight in Springfield tonight. According to Springfield Police Captain William Collins, a fight started on Belmont Avenue and moved to Johnny Appleseed Park at Dickinson Street. That's where two men were stabbed, one was stabbed across the chest and the other was stabbed in his side. Both were taken to Baystate Medical Center where they are recovering. One arrest was made in connection with these stabbings.

**News**                                      **06/27/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A suspect in a Springfield shooting and one of Massachusetts' most wanted fugitives has been captured. Deputy U.S. Marshals arrested Marcus Parks in Louisiana Friday afternoon. The arrest comes nearly three years after the 25 year old allegedly shot and seriously wounded two bystanders in a Springfield parking lot in June of 2008. Parks will be returned to Massachusetts to face assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and numerous other charges.

**News**                                      **06/28/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

The District Attorney's seeking criminal charges against Holyoke's interim fire chief. A news release from Hampden County district attorney, Mark Mastroianni, says Chief William Moran falsely reported a problem at the Holyoke Mall June 15th. The fire truck that was dispatched got into an accident en route to the call.

**News**                                      **06/28/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Nine people ranging in age from 12 to 19 are facing charges in connection with the beating of an openly gay man near a city park. According to Springfield Police spokesman Sgt. John Delaney, 19-year old Shay Andre Edwards and 8 other teenagers were arrested early this morning. The alleged beating and robbery took place around three this morning near Barrows Park. The victim, a 30 year old man was allegedly knocked to the ground and punched in the face, and kicked in the head and stomach while the females in the group

cheered them on. The group also allegedly yelled anti-gay slurs, and took the victim's MP3 player.

**News**                                      **06/29/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

A man will be arraigned for drug charges this morning, after Springfield police found more than 90 plants in his home. Police found 92 Marijuana plants in a home on Maybrook Road. Nicholas Korniotos will be here at the Hampden County Hall of Justice for his arraignment in just a few hours, but, first, let me tell you how police discovered this pot growing operation. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News, a 14-year-old girl who lived at 139 Maybrook Road was forced into a closet by two men who broke into the house. She called police on her cell phone. The two men fled when police arrived. When police began to search through the home they discovered a sophisticated pot garden. 3 rooms downstairs were filled with plants. The girl's father 40-year-old Korniotos was arrested when he came back home. Police also seized his boat, car, bank accounts and motorcycle. They're also trying to seize 5 other homes that he owns. Korniotos will be arraigned in Springfield District Court.

**News**                                      **06/29/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Wilbraham Police say they've arrested two people, who had dozens of pot plants growing in their house. Wilbraham Police Chief Allen Stratton told 22News police searched 14 Brainard Road this morning, and found 73 marijuana plants, as well as fifteen items used for indoor cultivation. Police arrested 35 year old Mark Shields and 38 year old Caroline Shields. Both have been charged with possession of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute. Chief Stratton says police received a report of suspicious activity at the home.

**News**                                      **06/30/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

Melvin Jones the Third is back in court today. He's been charged with another crime. Melvin Jones the Third will be arraigned here at the Hampden County Hall of Justice for reportedly selling crack cocaine. Jones has appeared in this courtroom multiple times this year, for a variety of reasons. He's already been arrested twice this year, back in January for stealing and he was arrested for assault in April. And his legal troubles do not stop there. You probably remember this beating caught on camera back in 2009. Allegedly, Melvin Jones the Third is being beaten in this video. And former Springfield Police Officer Jeffery Asher is the attacker. Asher was kicked off the force earlier this year, and the drug charges made against Jones during this apparently violent arrest were dropped by the D.A. in April. Asher now faces assault charges. But Jones took this a step farther, and sued the City of Springfield, the Police Commissioner and six officers in January. Now Jones can add these drug charges to his list of legal problems. These new drug charges came from an FBI and regional task force drug and gang investigation in Springfield. Police say Jones was caught on camera selling drugs in December of 2010.



**The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      04/01/11                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

High school students took over the State House today for the 64th annual Student Government Day. Hundreds of students are debating mock bills in the House and Senate Chambers today, getting a taste for what it's like to be in state government. Governor Deval Patrick began Student Government Day answering questions on education, saying Massachusetts is number one in the country in terms of student achievement, but, he says the school calendar is short and the achievement gap amongst poor children is wide. Then began the debates; students from across Massachusetts were divided to form a mock government, complete with a Senate, House, Executive and Judiciary branch. Students conducted a hearing on a pair of bills to increase financial literacy and reduce childhood obesity, then headed to the House and Senate floors to debate the legislation in session. After passing both bills, students met with their local elected officials to discuss their ambitions in politics and social policy. By law, state government hosts Student Government Day on every first Friday of April.

**News                                      04/06/11                                      5pm                                      : 30**

Springfield Technical Community College received a one million dollar grant to educate students on ways to weatherize homes. More than 40 students are enrolled in the program which is being run by the Mass Green Initiative. The grant is stimulus money that's part of \$125,000,000 dollars that Massachusetts invested across the state for weatherization projects. Basically, the program trains students in the latest green techniques in weatherization. They have mock up houses inside one of the building that the students use to train on. They learn everything from caulking and siding to insulating and using infrared cameras to see how energy efficient a home is.

**News                                      04/13/11                                      12pm                                      : 30**

The Agawam School Department is being forced to consider severe reductions in an effort to balance the budget. Around 200 teachers and parents filled the Doering Middle School Auditorium at last night's school committee meeting. Agawam Superintendent, Dr. Mary Czajkowski asked the school committee to tentatively approve her budget proposal which would include cutting 32 positions through lay-offs and attrition. The budget also proposes collecting fees for athletics, band participation, extra-curricular activities, and parking. A public hearing is planned for Tuesday, April 26th.

**News                                      04/14/11                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Some West Springfield students had the chance to preview careers they might pursue when they grow up. The West Springfield Middle School Unified Arts Career Fair offers guidance to 8th Graders. 40 people participated, representing several professions. Among those professionals, 22News Storm Team Meteorologist Adam Strzempko, who told the students what it's like to work as a weatherman.

**News**                      **04/20/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

The Springfield School Department faces an \$18 million dollar deficit going into the next fiscal year. But unlike other city employees, it's not likely school department workers will have to make concessions. The City of Springfield is hoping municipal employees will make some sacrifices to help balance the budget. The city faces a budget deficit of \$5.4 million dollars in order to close the gap. The mayor wants employees to forgo raises and take one furlough day a month for a year. That does not include the school department which handles its own budget, which is seriously in the red. But on the city side, Mayor Domenic Sarno says concessions will be the only way to balance the budget without layoffs or dipping into the reserves. Some residents say these are hard choices but sympathized with city workers. Union Rep. Ross Kiely says workers recognize something needs to be done but that it's too soon to tell what will come out of collective bargaining. The firefighters union plans to meet this weekend to figure out where they stand. Time is ticking the budget must be presented to the city council by the first two weeks of May.

**News**                      **04/22/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

UMass students may pay higher fee unless the Amherst Campus can procure more funding. The House budget complements the governor's in giving UMass Amherst \$196 million in state funding, but it's not enough. The college faces a gap in spending and either the quality of education suffers or the students do in the form of fee increases. UMass Amherst students are lobbying lawmakers, asking for more funding for higher education. With the House budget released last week, Chancellor Robert Holub says state funding will leave the school with a \$28 million dollar gap in revenue and expenses. And the difference will have to make up, in part, by the students in the form of fee increases. The Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee adds that colleges won't be receiving federal stimulus money next year another revenue stream lost, but he still has it in mind to make higher education a priority. Chancellor Holub says the school is also making cuts in their base budget and actively seeking new cash streams to generate revenue.

**News**                      **05/10/11**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Chicopee High School students showed their commitment to staying fit and keeping their weight down today. Hundreds of High School students walked the track several times. It's their way of showing support for first lady Michelle Obama's "Let's move in School" program.

**News**                      **05/11/11**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

A computer error is causing big problems for students graduating from Palmer High School

this spring. A 22News I-Team investigation has revealed the glitch impacted the grades of 89 graduating seniors and 105 juniors. The 22News investigative team followed up on this e-mail from a viewer, claiming his relative was rejected by all the colleges he applied to because his grade point average was calculated incorrectly. We called Palmer's Superintendent of schools, who confirmed a system error has affected the GPA's for students graduating both this year and next. School Committee Chairwoman Maureen Gallagher told 22News school administrators were alerted to the problem last August, but did nothing to fix it. She didn't hear about it until late last week.

**News**                                      **05/12/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Now a follow-up to a 22news I-team investigation about a mistake that may be keeping dozens of Palmer High School seniors from getting into college. Yesterday the 22News I-team first told you about a system wide miscalculation for seniors' Grade Point Averages. Today Palmer School Superintendent Gerald Fournier told 22News it started two years ago when a school employee failed to input credits for one full semester. No one caught the mistake until March, when the guidance department noticed many of the 89 graduating seniors didn't have enough credits to graduate.

**News**                                      **05/13/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

And today, Friday the 13th, will have extra special meaning for some 4,300 UMass Amherst students graduating this evening. The event is taking place at McGuirk Alumni stadium. Astronaut Cady Coleman is delivering a pre-taped commencement address from space. She is currently on board the International Space Station. Coleman earned a doctorate from UMass. She still lives in the Amherst area with her husband and daughter.

**News**                                      **05/15/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Elms College celebrated their 80th commencement today. The ceremony took place at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. Their commencement speaker this year was Dr. John Paul Lederach from the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. He told the 117 graduates that everything is possible. He said "Not only is peace possible, but we can find it around ourselves every day."

**News**                                      **05/22/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Since 1966 thousands of children from Springfield's poorer neighborhoods have gone to school in the suburbs. It's called the METCO program, short for Metropolitan Council of Educational opportunity. This year's METCO high school graduates were honored today in Springfield. Each of these young people from Springfield is graduating from a suburban high school.

**News**                                      **05/23/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Students at UMass Amherst may have to pay more for their education next year. UMass spokesperson Robert Connolly told 22News that the university could have to raise its student fees next year. He said no formal proposal has been presented yet but it's not unlikely that students could have to pay anywhere from 5-8% more in undergraduate fees next year. The reason, he says is because of a lack of federal funds. Last year, the university received \$38 million dollars in federal stimulus funds. So the fees may have to make up for that loss.

**News**                      **05/31/11**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

The Joint Committee on Education is holding a public hearing tomorrow on three different education bills. One bill would create an "early reading council" with the goal of achieving reading proficiency and higher levels of learning for all students by the end of third grade. Another bill would require that every child attend a full-day kindergarten educational program. A third bill would create a grant program to encourage schools to add additional teaching time to their schedules, especially core subjects such as mathematics, literacy and science.

**News**                      **06/20/11**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

It's payback time. Springfield public school teachers now know how long they have to re-pay the money the school district mistakenly overpaid them. The School committee approved a repayment plan. Teachers have two options; pay back what they owe in one lump sum or pay it back over the course of the next academic year. The school district shelled out \$1.2 million dollars in a payroll miscalculation. On average, teachers will have to pay back between \$600 and \$800 dollars. Both sides think the repayment plan is fair.

**News**                      **06/21/11**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

The Agawam School department is getting some much needed funding to restore positions that were being cut. Agawam City Councilors last night unanimously decided to fund essential programs in the school system. Mayor Richard Cohen told 22News he agreed with the City Council's decision to increase the school department's 2012 budget by \$250,000 dollars. The money will restore teaching positions, and keep classes from getting too big.

**News**                      **06/24/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

A Roman Catholic school in Springfield that ended the academic year early after sustaining heavy tornado damage will hold classes next fall, it's just not clear where. Springfield Bishop Timothy McDonnell said students from Cathedral High School and St. Michael's Academy middle school will have a place to attend classes even though the damaged building they shared will not reopen by September. Officials are still trying to determine whether it will be torn down and rebuilt, or repaired. About 450 students attended the high school, 200 at the middle school.

**News**                      **06/28/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Public school teachers will soon be evaluated on student performance in the classroom and on Massachusetts standardized tests. The state's Education Board voted today, 9-2 to approve a proposal to evaluate teacher performance based on measurable student performance, such as their scores on the MCAS. As for the teachers who don't teach a subject tested on the MCAS or a grade where the test is not given. Students would take a new district-wide test to help evaluate those teachers. Evaluations would also be based on student performance in the classroom, and feedback from students and parents. School administrators would perform the evaluations every 90 days to two years, depending on the teacher's past assessments. Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester recommended the initiative, which is the first update to state evaluation standards in 16 years.

**News**

**06/30/11**

**4:30am**

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The Springfield School committee's taking steps to save a failing high school. School Committee members met with Superintendent Dr. Alan Ingram last night discussing the future of Commerce High School. Ingram told 22News last year, the state rated Commerce a level four school meaning it fell well below standards. The department is now bringing in outside consultants to help get the school back on track.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      04/01/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

After the Massachusetts Department of Public Health found very low levels of radio-iodine in rainwater last week some people have expressed concern about radiation in the snow we had today. In a recent article from the Nashua Telegraph in Nashua, New Hampshire radiation has been found in snow in Concord, New Hampshire at levels just below that found last week here in Massachusetts rainwater. There is no indication that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is conducting tests to see if the snow that fell today contains any radiation from the Japanese power plant leak.

**News                                      04/02/11                                      6am                                      : 30**

Low levels of radiation have been reported in a routine air sample here in the Bay State. The state health department says that the sample that was taken last Tuesday is only slightly above the lowest detectable level. They say those levels of radio-iodine are consistent with findings reported around the country since the crisis at Japanese nuclear power plants due to an earthquake. The department said federal regulators have described the findings as being "hundreds of thousands to millions of times below levels of concern." Air samples taken last Friday the 22nd did not show any signs of radiation. Earlier this week health department officials say there was no radiation found in bodies of water that are used for drinking water. But according to the Nashua Telegraph in Nashua New Hampshire, radiation was found in some snow in Concord. Even before the earthquake in Japan the state had launched a program to be more aggressive with testing programs, especially in the area near the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. They announced the program which began yesterday that would test vegetation, agricultural products, fish, and surface water. Western Massachusetts residents say they're not concerned with this level of radiation in the air.

**News                                      04/04/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

The investigation continues into the March 18th sewer-line break in Agawam. 22News cameras went back to the site today which has been cleaned up since an unauthorized backhoe allegedly broke a 10 inch waste water pipe causing sewage to spill into the Westfield River and nearby meadows. According to Agawam police Detective Lieutenant Richard Light, police know the name of the man responsible for operating the unauthorized backhoe while 2 other men watched. They say it occurred on March 17th. The responsible parties didn't report the sewage leak. Instead it was reported by the manager of a nearby turf farm the following day.

**News                                      04/04/11                                      5pm                                      : 30**

There are many organic offerings out there for food. You don't need to have a green thumb to consider going green with your fertilizer. With all the complex fertilizer offerings on the shelves, there is one more option you might want to consider, organic fertilizer. While organic fertilizers have been around for decades, more people are choosing organic fertilizer these days. Organic fertilizers offer a slower release which makes it difficult to overfeed; they encourage growth of healthy microorganisms which help plant life. And organic fertilizers are safe for those of you with pets or children. As good as organics may sound, there are some negatives. Organics are typically 20-30% more expensive, and usually require more applications than the more potent chemical fertilizers. So what should you look for when buying organic fertilizer? If you want to make sure that the fertilizer that you're buying is certified organic, check for the OMRI listed icon somewhere on the packaging. OMRI listed, means that the product has been checked by a not for profit organization against the criteria to list it as truly organic.

**News**                      **04/05/11**                      **6am**                      **: 30**

Biomass battles continue in Springfield over a proposed wood-burning plant. A hearing was held last night on this issue. As decision day draws closer more Western Mass. residents are voicing their concerns over whether they want a biomass plant operating in the city of Springfield. Hundreds filled the city's Duggan Middle School Auditorium last night to voice their stance on this hotbed issue. If the government approves the plant for a permit it would be operating on Page Boulevard. Since the term 'biomass' refers to a renewable energy source this proposed plant would be burning wood. Those who oppose the plant claim that the smoke will cause tons of waste to end up in the air ultimately affecting the health of those in the area. But the plant's developer insists that the smoke will be cleaned by new cutting edge and state-of-the-art technology. The State Department of Public Health ordered this hearing as part of a 30-day public comment period after Palmer Renewable Energy was approved for its application plan.

**News**                      **04/19/11**                      **12pm**                      **: 30**

A federal agency has approved a construction plan for Cape Wind, clearing the way for work to begin on the nation's first offshore wind farm as early as this fall. U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar made the announcement in Boston this morning. He said the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement have given approval to a Construction and Operations Plan for the project. Cape Wind is planning to construct 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound. But the wind farm still could face legal action from opponents who have questioned the cost to ratepayers and the potential impact on wildlife.

**News**                      **04/22/11**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

It's Earth Day and 22News Storm Team Meteorologist Adam Strzempko joins us with some tips to be greener. Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues; it is now a globally celebrated holiday. On Earth Day many of us try to be more environmentally conscious but the idea is to be that way all year round. There are many things we can do to be greener. There are some simple things like turning off the lights

when you leave the room. You can also save energy by making the switch from incandescent bulbs to energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. You can help conserve water by not running the water while you brush your teeth. And when you're grocery shopping you can use your own bags instead of using plastic ones. Recycle your cans and bottles; remember you can get money back by returning them to the store. When it comes to your car you should turn it off if you're going to be idling for more than a minute. This will reduce emissions and help you save gas. If you can afford it buying a hybrid car can improve fuel economy, and also reduce greenhouse gases. And they were recycling old electronics for Earth Day at the Eastfield Mall in Springfield. If you didn't make it down there today you can get down there tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a fee, with some of the proceeds benefiting the Red Cross Japan earthquake and tsunami relief efforts.

**News**

**04/26/11**

**5:30pm**

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After a warm day like today, you might be thinking about air conditioning. 22News green team reporter Nick Bannin has some tips to help you choose an environmentally efficient option. With temperatures warming into the lower 80s today, people are keeping the heating off, and thinking of turning the a/c on. More and more stores will be offering air conditioners for sale as temperatures warm up. But if you're thinking of buying an air conditioner for the first time or replacing an older model consider the size of the room you will be cooling. Air conditioning cooling power is measured in BTU's or British Thermal Units. The larger the room, the more BTU's it takes to cool it. On the box it actually says what it will actually do for a room, if it's a 10 by 10 room you would go with a 5000 to 6500 BTU air conditioner, depending on how many people are in the room and depending also on the sunlight in the room. When making your purchase, look for the Energy Star label which indicates a lower power usage which could save you 10 % in your electric bill over the less energy efficient models. The amount of sunlight that a particular room gets will affect how well your air conditioner cools the room, and putting A/C in a kitchen usually requires a more powerful model as kitchens are usually warmer rooms. A portable window air conditioner may be good for cooling a single space, but a larger outside unit may be better for cooling an entire home.

**News**

**04/28/11**

**5pm**

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With all the severe weather over the south the big question is, could that happen here in Western Massachusetts. 22News Storm Team meteorologist Adam Strzempko is live in Springfield to let us know what the chances are that something like that could happen here. Well fortunately here in Western Massachusetts we're pretty safe from seeing a widespread tornado outbreak but deadly tornadoes have occurred here in New England. When you see all the damage and destruction down south you can't help but ask yourself, could that happen here. The chances are pretty low but if the conditions were just right we couldn't rule out some kind of tornado outbreak here in New England. On average we see about 3 tornadoes in Massachusetts each year. Some of the more recent and memorable tornadoes to hit our area were the Wendell Tornado in 2006, the Great Barrington Tornado in 1995, the Windsor Locks Tornado in 1979 and one of the worst was the Worcester Tornado in 1953.



**News**

**05/11/11**

**5:30pm**

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Burning wood for fuel was once a hot idea in Massachusetts. But as 22News reporter Matt Caron explains, the idea of burning wood to create electrical power has cooled considerably in Western Massachusetts. It wasn't very long ago when there were signs everywhere in Greenfield about biomass. The Governor originally proposed three plants, one in Greenfield, and another in Springfield and another in Russell. But now, that's all changed. That's because in the past month the state passed new standards for energy efficiency and that none of designs for the proposed biomass plants would meet those standards. That virtually eliminates any possibility that these wood fired plants would be coming to the Baystate, at least for the short term. According to Massachusetts law the state must drastically cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The state says wind and solar are developing faster than any other renewable energy but

**News**

**05/16/11**

**6am**

**: 30**

The fight against biomass in the city of Springfield is back on the table this week. Today, the environmental group "Stop Toxic Incineration in Springfield" and the "Toxics Action Center" will be delivering around two-hundred letters to the city council in support of revoking a permit for the construction of a biomass plant in the city. Back in 2008, the Palmer Renewable Energy was granted a special permit to build a plant on Page Boulevard. The city council will hold a hearing tomorrow, on whether this special permit should be revoked.

**News**

**05/17/11**

**5:30pm**

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We use Plastic bags every time we visit the super market. But a group of Central Massachusetts middle school students tell 22News State House Reporter Christine Lee how plastic bags hurts our environment. Lawmakers commended a seventh grade class from Grafton Middle School that testified in favor of a bill requiring retailers to provide biodegradable plastic bags to customers. Lawmakers in favor of the bill said plastic bags take over one-thousand years to decompose on land. As they are decomposing, they break down into dangerous toxins that seep into the soil and water harming marine life and clogging city sewers. Now we often see lawmakers and lobbyists testifying before Joint Committees on Beacon Hill, but this morning, a class of seventh graders took the initiative to submit testimony as well. The students were inspired to testify after their teacher, Ms. Gerhart, showed them a video in science class on the harmful effect that plastic bags have on sea turtles.

**News**

**05/26/11**

**5:30pm**

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An Environmental Fair in downtown Springfield aims to help you save money and the environment. The Green Expo at Tower Square featured twenty vendors. They offered innovative services and products for home and business owners looking to save money on energy costs and reducing their carbon footprint. One downtown worker said he's benefited from this event and came back to learn more.

**News**

**06/01/11**

**5pm**

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You're looking at 22News viewer photo of quarter size hail that fell in Chesterfield this afternoon. According to Jack Harry the hail fell around 3.45 this afternoon. There are also reports of hail falling in Hadley. The severe weather comes after a stretch of several days of unseasonable heat. Temperatures have soared into the 90s in spots.

**News**                                      **06/02/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

People in the town of Brimfield, very close to where we are now in Monson, are living through a catastrophe. It's almost impossible to imagine what happened when that tornado came through the hollow road neighborhood Wednesday afternoon. Neighbors told 22News it took all of four seconds to reduce their homes to rubble, to flatten these houses completely. Resident of this street told me, the full shock of what happened has yet to set Linda Weston and her husband owned a business here.

**News**                                      **06/02/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

There is extensive damage here in Monson from yesterday's tornado but the questions people are asking is why did we see this tornado outbreak. It's a sight that most of us never expect to see, a tornado moving through downtown Springfield on live television. Although we typically see a couple tornadoes touch down in Massachusetts during the summer they're usually small and rarely touch down in a populated area. Cool dry air slamming into the very warm air we had over us helped set the stage for tornadoes.

**News**                                      **06/02/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Two people died here in West Springfield during the tornado that hit this area; one, a mother who died saving her daughter. A tornado tore through West Springfield up and down Union Street. The tornado flattened two homes on Union Street, in one a mother who as the tornado tore through shoved her 15 year old daughter into the bathtub and lay on top of her as their house came down around them. After the winds died down, residents here on George Street rushed to the home on Union Street hoping to help whoever was inside but unfortunately there was little they could do. The teenager managed to escape, but her mother 40 year old Angelique Guerrero died saving her. A young man also died a few streets down from here, he was in his car when a tree fell Police Chief Thomas Burke identified him as 23 year old Sergey Livchin of West Springfield. Mayor Gibson said they are still going door to door looking for anyone who is still trapped; he said there's still a chance more people were killed during the storm.

**News**                                      **06/02/11**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

That tornado touched down at least four times in Springfield. And dozens of homes near Arcadia Street are gone torn to pieces. The destruction in that East Forest Park neighborhood has devastated those who live there. Trees cover the streets and down power lines hang from broken poles. One woman described what happened when the tornado hit her home.

**News**

**06/29/11**

**5pm**

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Asthma is a disease that affects more than 130 thousand children in Massachusetts. Today parents and organizations rallied to change regulations in the state to try and improve air quality. Asthma is an inflammatory disorder of the airways and the price to keep it under control costs more than just money. Asthma can be triggered by a number of reasons including poor air quality. Today families and organizations rallied in Holyoke to try and improve air quality in the area. 10% of children in Massachusetts are affected by this disorder and it's much higher in Holyoke at 24%. The Sierra Club says the Mount Tom Coal plant is largely to blame. They want the EPA to change the Clean Air Act in the state. They say if they can change the rules, air quality will change the quality of life for many families.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      04/01/11                                      5:30pm                                      :30**

High school students took over the State House today for the 64th annual Student Government Day. Hundreds of students are debating mock bills in the House and Senate Chambers today - Getting a taste for what it's like to be in state government. Governor Deval Patrick began Student Government Day answering questions on education, saying Massachusetts is number one in the country in terms of student achievement, but, he says the school calendar is short and the achievement gap amongst poor children is wide. Then began the debates; students from across Massachusetts were divided to form a mock government, complete with a Senate, House, Executive and Judiciary branch. Students conducted a hearing on a pair of bills to increase financial literacy and reduce childhood obesity, then headed to the House and Senate floors to debate the legislation in session. After passing both bills, students met with their local elected officials to discuss their ambitions in politics and social policy. By law, state government hosts Student Government Day on every first Friday of April.

**News                                      04/04/11                                      6pm                                      :30**

Governor Deval Patrick has nominated an openly gay woman to serve as a justice to the state's highest court. The governor has nominated Appeals Court Justice Barbara Lenk to the position of associate Justice on the Supreme Judicial Court. The governor describes Justice Lenk as a "brilliant and thoughtful jurist". She has served the Commonwealth as a member of the judiciary for over 17 years. Lenk says she is an example of an American story where anything is possible. Brought up by poor Polish parents in New York, she was the first in her family to attend college. If Justice Lenk is appointed, she will be the first openly gay justice serving on the Supreme Judicial Court. In confirmed, Justice Lenk will replace Judith Cowin, who is stepping down after serving 11 years on the state's highest court.

**News                                      04/04/11                                      5:30pm                                      :30**

An Interfaith Coalition is supporting an effort to expand the state's civil rights and anti-discrimination laws. Leaders from different religious organizations are planting their support behind a bill that would expand rights to bisexual and transgender youth and people of diverse gender identities or expressions. Members of the Interfaith Coalition for Transgender Equality (ICTE) put on a united front against discrimination as part of "Transgender Faith Action Week." They're asking lawmakers to pass "An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights" (H502), which in addition to protecting gays and lesbians, would prevent discrimination against people who identify themselves as either bisexual or transgender. Last session, the bill had a majority of the House's support but the bill was never moved out of

committee. The bill still has a great number of cosponsors, including 8 legislators from Western Massachusetts.

**News**                                      **04/06/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **:30**

West Springfield's first and only mayor has decided not to run for reelection. Mayor Ed Gibson announced today that he will not seek a sixth term. Gibson has been mayor since 2001 when the town changed its form of government. His voice breaking at times, the mayor looked back on all the town has accomplished during his tenure. Despite the economic crisis, West Springfield managed to stay fiscally sound and complete projects. He thanked town employees.

**News**                                      **04/12/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Today is the fifth anniversary of health care reform in Massachusetts. Democrats are making a point to celebrate and pour heaps of (perhaps unwanted) praise on former Governor Romney for his part in signing Massachusetts health care reform into law five years ago. April 12, 2006, then Governor Mitt Romney signed state health care legislation that has become the inspiration for President Obama's federal health care reform. But these days, the former governor is isolating himself from the connection. At the Massachusetts Democratic Party headquarters, they're throwing a party for the former Republican governor to remind him of the part he played in making state health care reform possible. And though the honored guest couldn't be here, they're still putting out all the stops, decorating their offices with streamers, balloons, and the centerpiece, a sheet of cake thanking Mitt Romney, and don't forget the party favors. Yesterday Mitt Romney announced that he is forming an exploratory committee, an essential first step toward a presidential run for the White House.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Democrat Alan Khazei has officially declared his intention to run for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Scott Brown. Khazei is the co-founder of the City Year youth program. He announced his candidacy today in messages on social media and in an email to supporters. It will be Khazei's second run for the seat that was held for nearly a half century by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. Khazei was one of four candidates who ran in the Democratic primary leading up to the January 2010 special election.

**News**                                      **04/27/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

She wants to be Springfield's next mayor, and she intends to win. Last night, Springfield School Committee Member Antonette Pepe announced her intent to un-seat sitting mayor Domenic Sarno, in front of more than a hundred supporters. She told attendants at the John Boyle O'Reilly club she would not grant waivers to highly paid municipal managers to live outside the city. She also wants city government to be more transparent.

**News**                                      **05/11/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A new judge will preside over a local division of Juvenile Court. But the vote underscores controversy within the Governor's Council. In a 4 to 1 decision, with one abstention, the Governor's Council voted Springfield attorney Judith Philips to become an Associate Justice of the Franklin and Hampshire County Juvenile Court. Philips was nominated by Governor Deval Patrick and interviewed last week by the Governor's Council. As a sole practitioner living in Springfield, she is active on civil and criminal cases in Juvenile Court. During the vote, one councilor abstained from voting for Phillips because of a dispute with the Judicial Nominating Committee, a group of 21 people appointed by the governor that screens judicial candidates before the governor nominates them. The Governor's Council in under threat of abolishment, and recent infighting amongst councilors has sometimes overshadowed the judicial nominees being interviewed.

**News**

**05/16/11**

**6pm**

**: 30**

The Patrick administration says rising health care costs could consume almost half of all state revenue in 10 years. The governor made it clear that Massachusetts has set the bar for accessible healthcare in the nation. But if we want our economy to recover, we need cost containment measures to keep premiums down. Governor Deval Patrick testified before the Committee on Health Care Financing, submitting a bill that supports forming accountable care organizations, meaning he wants to encourage hospitals, homecare workers, and physicians to unite their services by forming large integrated care networks that focus on preventative care. But lawmakers pointed out some holes in his plan. For instance, administration officials couldn't answer how much a shift towards integrated care would cost the state. And the transition deadline is set for 2015, a year after Patrick ends his term in office. The Patrick administration said they're working out the details, but the bottom line is that our current fee-for-service system incentivizes patient volume over patient care and health providers need to unify their services, focus on preventative care, and keep patients out of costly emergency rooms. The governor is seeking to have his bill passed by the fall, but the house speaker and house majority leader have both said they would like to take a more time with a slower, more cautious approach.

**News**

**05/16/11**

**5:30pm**

**: 30**

Three sitting selectmen face a recall vote in today's annual elections in Belchertown. This recall election was born out of the controversy surrounding the Police Chief Francis Fox's contract renewal. Originally, James Barry, Kenneth Elstein, and George Archible all did not want to renew his contract, and wouldn't give a reason for their decision. That upset the community enough to take out recall papers to remove them from office. Today, voters will have to decide whether to do that or not. Still, this election is pulling out a lot of voters according to the town's clerk.

**News**

**06/03/11**

**12pm**

**: 30**

Governor Patrick was in downtown Springfield this morning to survey the damage. He talked with 22news anchor Laura Hutchinson live at 6am. He said the first priority following the tornado is to make sure everyone is accounted for.

**News**                      **06/07/11**                      **12pm**                      **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick was in Springfield today. He was touring some of the hardest hit sections of the Forest Park neighborhood. He was greeted by residents and first responders. One volunteer told 22News her family lives in Springfield so she's been helping residents clean up ever since the storm hit Wednesday night.

**News**                      **06/10/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

During these difficult economic times, when budgets are closely monitored, Governor Patrick's allowing State Agency heads to offer up to three percent wage hikes to 4-thousand executive branch managers. Those increases could cost close to 10 million dollars next fiscal year. 22News asked Governor Patrick about those pay raises today. The Governor's budget chief Jay Gonzalez said the raises would be the first in three years. He also said that no additional money would be added the state budget for the raises that money would come from existing budgets of those agencies.

**News**                      **06/16/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

There has been more than \$32 billion dollars worth of damage this year from violent natural disasters around the country. Today Governor Deval Patrick was in Springfield to discuss the newly acquired federal disaster assistance for OUR area. President Obama announced the disaster declaration Wednesday. The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates some 3,000 inspections. Governor Patrick and Representative Richard Neal applauded the response from the government in our time of need.

**News**                      **06/21/11**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick signed a \$54 million dollar spending bill today. \$15 million of that is going to pay for the extra money spent during the response to the tornadoes. Governor Patrick said the \$15 million dollars will help individuals, families and businesses harmed by the tornadoes to begin rebuilding their lives. When I asked him directly how that money will be handed out, all he could tell me is that there is flexibility to respond to needs as they arise. The Governor also took part in a public forum on tornado rebuilding efforts. The theme of the meeting is that this is the beginning of the next stage, revival. They are entering the rebuilding stage. Governor Patrick says the recovery will take time, but he hopes to attract private investors to not only rebuild, but strength the neighborhoods hammered by the tornado.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News**                                      **04/04/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

UMass Amherst could soon become a tobacco free zone. 22News reporter Jackie Bruno is live from the Hampshire County Bureau to explain how close the university is to banning smoking on campus. The Faculty Senate still needs to approve this proposal. They're voting on it on Thursday. But, if it's approved, the use of all tobacco products will be banned on UMass Amherst's campus starting in July of 2013. Already over 400 campuses in the nation have become tobacco free including UMass Worcester.

**News**                                      **04/05/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A new report shows that municipal governments provide employees with health insurance that is more generous and costly than in the private sector. According to that report from the Boston Foundation and the Massachusetts Taxpayers foundation the average doctors visit co-pay is 11 dollars, it's twice that in the public sector. Though the insurance game may be changing; Bill Mahoney head of the personnel Department in Springfield says he realizes the perception that city jobs take care of their people better than Private companies. A line of thought that Government employees had traded off compensation for more job security and benefits whether its health insurance or pension plan. He says that may not be true anymore. He first warns that it's hard to compare public and private employees, because public employment includes more administrative jobs. Second costs have skyrocketed for everyone, which is why the city has signed onto the state's Group Insurance Commission plans, which gives cities the same buying power of the state. But Kevin Ross with the Ross Insurance Agency, which works with auto insurance, says he's seen his employees premiums double in less than a decade. Meaning municipal employees may still be getting a good deal. State lawmakers are fighting over a bill designed to contain costs. The Governor said he was hoping to have another bill aimed at controlling employee health care costs for municipalities on his desk by now.

**News**                                      **04/08/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Days are numbered for smokers on the campus of the UMass Amherst. Smoking has been banned as of June, 2013. Just look inside the many cigarette receptacles throughout the Amherst campus and you can see a lot of people smoke. It's just as apparent from the cigarette butts improperly discarded. UMass senior Mark Valdez will be long gone when the smoking ban takes effect. For some students who've never lit up a cigarette in their lives, the smoking ban goes against their sense of personal freedom on a college campus. But it's a campus where so many smokers don't show common courtesy getting rid of their cigarette butts properly, that once a year anti smoking advocates pick up hundreds of pounds of butts



that have accumulated during the previous 12 months. And the 2013 smoking ban has become an instant selling point for parents considering sending their kids to UMASS next year. The people who make the laws and set the standards on the Amherst campus now have to decide how to punish those who light up anywhere on campus after July, 2013.

**News**                                      **04/12/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Today is the fifth anniversary of health care reform in Massachusetts. Democrats are making a point to celebrate and pour heaps of (perhaps unwanted) praise on former Governor Romney for his part in signing Massachusetts health care reform into law five years ago. April 12, 2006, then Governor Mitt Romney signed state health care legislation that has become the inspiration for President Obama's federal health care reform. But these days, the former governor is isolating himself from the connection. At the Massachusetts Democratic Party headquarters, they're throwing a party for the former Republican governor to remind him of the part he played in making state health care reform possible. And though the honored guest couldn't be here, they're still putting out all the stops, decorating their offices with streamers, balloons, and the centerpiece, a sheet of cake thanking Mitt Romney, and don't forget the party favors. Yesterday Mitt Romney announced that he is forming an exploratory committee, an essential first step toward a presidential run for the White House.

**News**                                      **04/25/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

The House budget gives cities and towns the unilateral right to make changes to municipal health insurance. But the unions are fighting back. Lawmakers are proposing an amendment that would continue to give municipal employees a seat at the negotiation table. Crowding the halls of the state house today, union leaders wore badges that read: "Collective bargaining equals affordable health care." Amendment 749 has about 50 sponsors and maintains the ability for municipal employees to collectively bargain health insurance. One of the sponsors, a Franklin County lawmaker, says she supports the amendment because an open dialogue between unions and management should continue. They're getting more than their fair share of critique that they're the cause of the issues, they're not. Lawmakers who did not sign on to the amendment also agree that discussion should be encouraged.

**News**                                      **04/26/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Massachusetts Lawmakers today released a report calling Lyme disease a public health crisis, with No clear plan to treat or prevent the sickness in place. The House Post Audit and Oversight recommends that a commission be established to bring experts together to brainstorm solutions. They also want legislation to mandate insurance coverage for long-term treatment, educational outreach, and they suggest reducing the deer population as deer are known to carry infected ticks. The report says every single city and town in the Commonwealth has been affected by Lyme disease. It's caused by bacteria and spread by infected ticks found outdoors. The latest numbers show that over 4-thousand people in the state were infected with Lyme disease in 2009 - over 400 of them from Western

Massachusetts.

**News**                                      **04/27/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A very vocal meeting in Boston today on health insurance, Union officials are outraged at House Speaker Robert Deleo after lawmakers backed a plan to sharply limit the collective bargaining power of public employees over their health insurance. Massachusetts AFL-CIO president Robert Haynes said that House members voted for the budget amendment "because the speaker of the house made them."

**News**                                      **05/08/11**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

A strong warning this weekend that all sections of Massachusetts face an epidemic of Hepatitis C Virus infections. The alert applies mostly to adolescents and young adults who are injection drug users. Those most at risk are non-Hispanic white men and women. New cases had been on the decline for years, but now there's been startling increase in the number of reported cases, enough to represent an epidemic. The Massachusetts public health department believes the spike in Hepatitis cases comes from addiction to drugs such as oxy-contin and oxy-codone.

**News**                                      **05/16/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

The Patrick administration says rising health care costs could consume almost half of all state revenue in 10 years. The governor made it clear that Massachusetts has set the bar for accessible healthcare in the nation. But if we want our economy to recover, we need cost containment measures to keep premiums down. Governor Deval Patrick testified before the Committee on Health Care Financing, submitting a bill that supports forming accountable care organizations, meaning he wants to encourage hospitals, homecare workers, and physicians to unite their services by forming large integrated care networks that focus on preventative care. But lawmakers pointed out some holes in his plan. For instance, administration officials couldn't answer how much a shift towards integrated care would cost the state. And the transition deadline is set for 2015, a year after Patrick ends his term in office. The Patrick administration said they're working out the details, but the bottom line is that our current fee-for-service system incentivizes patient volume over patient care and health providers need to unify their services, focus on preventative care, and keep patients out of costly emergency rooms. The governor is seeking to have his bill passed by the fall, but the house speaker and house majority leader have both said they would like to take a more time with a slower, more cautious approach.

**News**                                      **05/18/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Franklin County Mental health agencies held a wellness fair in Greenfield today. Service providers and clients met at the Energy Park to intensify public awareness on mental health services. The fair highlights the many programs available for diagnosis and treatment. Many suffer alone or know someone who needs help, but don't know where to turn. They told

22News say meeting someone personally helps more than just a pamphlet or a phone call.

**News**                                      **05/23/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Living in an apartment building with neighbors who smoke can be detrimental to your health. The Hampshire Council of Governments here in Northampton wants to encourage landlords to make their buildings smoke free because it's good for the health of the community but they say it's also good for business. Even if you don't smoke, that doesn't mean you're not being exposed to smoke and if you live in an apartment complex with neighbors who enjoy cigarettes, it's likely your health could be at risk. They can actually have an increase of lung cancer between 20 to 30% increase and actually 25 to 35% of a risk of heart attacks. That's why the Hampshire Council of Governments has developed this website to encourage landlords to make their properties smoke free it's something they say 49% of people are willing to pay more for. And experts say homeowners should also consider going smoke free as well and not just for their health either but because it can affect the property value of their homes. Joy Rain of Delap Real Estate in Northampton said smokers often have to pay thousands of dollars to rip out carpeting and wallpaper when they want to sell their homes and still some buyers still won't consider their property. Just more reasons to kick the habit. And this smoke free rental website is on our website so if you want to post a smoke free apartment or condo or if you're looking to rent one you can go to our website at [wwlp.com](http://wwlp.com).

**News**                                      **06/14/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Quitting smoking can seem impossible for some people. They've developed the Hampshire County Ex-Smokers Hall of Fame. It's a way to celebrate the achievements of people who have quit and to show others that it's possible. This Hall of Fame was developed last November and it currently has 17 members. Four members were inducted into the Hall of Fame today and one of those people is Northampton's Mayor Claire Higgins. Today the new members sat down with a TV crew from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to tell their stories to people across the state.

**News**                                      **06/15/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Lawmakers are hearing two bills that aim to lift the ban on gifts sent to physicians from the pharmaceutical industry. Driven by a strong lobby from both the pharmaceutical and restaurant industry, a pair of bills are being heard that weaken the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Gift Ban bill passed in 2008. The Gift Ban prevents Big Pharma from winning and dining doctors at expensive restaurants and lavishing them with gifts as a means to influence how they prescribe their patients. Health advocates say this prevents aggressive marketing campaigns that drive up healthcare costs and more importantly, removes any undue influence that these gifts may have on prescribers. However, the bills being heard currently will allow the pharmaceutical industry to take doctors out to restaurants as a means of rejuvenating the dining industry; it will also limit the public disclosure requirements on such expenses. While the restaurant association and the biotech industry say that the gift ban has cut into their profit margins, health advocates say both industries are still thriving and on track to having their best year in 2011. In Massachusetts, gifted meals are not altogether banned,

merely limited to a small value and restricted to hospital settings.

**News**                                      **06/21/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

The FDA wants tobacco companies to make it blatantly obvious that smoking is bad for your health. We have to warn your they're graphic, but again, that's the point. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and the FDA hopes these will speak volumes to smokers. Labels featuring dead bodies, rotten teeth diseased lungs and other gruesome images will be required on all packs of cigarettes by October of 2012. The high profile anti-smoking push is already creating buzz. Tobacco companies argued the labels violate their constitutional rights to free speech but last year a judge ruled mostly in the government's favor. The companies are appealing the ruling. If you want a closer look at the new labels, head to our website, [wwlp.com](http://wwlp.com).

**News**                                      **06/21/11**                                      **6am**                                      **: 30**

The FDA is set to release 9 new warning labels today that will show in graphic detail the negative health effects of tobacco use. Among the possible images are rotting, diseased teeth and gums and a man with a tracheotomy smoking. The labels will take up the top half of a pack - both front and back of cigarette packs. Warning labels also must appear in advertisements and constitute 20% of an ad. Cigarette makers have until the fall of 2012 to comply with these new regulations.

**News**                                      **06/23/11**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Big tobacco is taking aim at Worcester. Three cigarette makers are suing Worcester over an anti-smoking ordinance. Worcester voted to ban any tobacco advertising that is visible from the street. The cigarette makers are arguing the ban violates their freedom of speech rights.

**News**                                      **06/28/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Lawmakers are revisiting a bill to legalize medical marijuana in Massachusetts. In Massachusetts possessing an ounce or less of marijuana is a civil violation that carries a \$100 fine. Possessing more than an ounce could lead to jail time. But lawmakers are considering a bill that would legalize marijuana for medical purposes. John Kelly has a spinal cord injury that has paralyzed him from the shoulders down. He experiences chronic muscle pain and spasms, but that seems to go away, he says, when he smokes marijuana. John is joined by others who use marijuana for medicinal purposes, everyone from people who suffer from Lou Gehrig's disease to a woman from Western Massachusetts who says it prevents her from having brain aneurysms. They're all in support of legislation that would legalize medical marijuana in Massachusetts. But some professionals fear the legislation, which allows users to possess up to 24 marijuana plants, will lead to carelessness. Senator Stanley Rosenberg of Amherst who is sponsoring the bill says it will be tightly regulated. Presently DC and 16 states in the country have legalized medical marijuana.



**The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      04/01/11                                      5pm                                      : 30**

The US Labor Department says that the unemployment rate has fallen to 8.8%, the lowest in two years. When there's been good jobs news, it doesn't always follow in our area. However people say with 216 jobs created last month nation-wide Franklin County is feeling the boost. A good indicator of what employers are doing is often seen through temp agencies. Masiello Employment Services in Greenfield says there are 25% more hours available for workers than last year. But more importantly they say more employers are confident enough not just to temp, but to hire.

**News                                      04/06/11                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Unemployment benefits are running out and more college graduates are entering the job market meaning there might be more applicants than job openings. But at Springfield College today, students got a chance to get their resumes on the desks of some employers during a job fair. Students browsed dozens of potential employers for a full-time, part-time or seasonal job. Many businesses and non-profits also offered internships. 22News talked to a career counselor who says finding a job is tough but the market is slowly getting better.

**News                                      04/20/11                                      11pm                                      : 30**

Hundreds of young people showed up for a Youth Career fair in Holyoke. More than a dozen local employers set up shop to meet prospective employees at Career Point. Some of it is seasonal work. Some of the positions could be the start of a new career. Job-seekers from 16 to 24 got solid advice on how to impress a boss, and how to reach their goals.

**News                                      04/21/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

Whether you get a job may depend on your level of education. A recent Associated Press-Viacom survey found that young adult's ages 18 to 24 lacking higher education are having trouble finding work. One third, not in school has a full time job, many at minimum wage. Competing with unemployed adults with more job experience makes the situation harder. Employment agencies say even a little extra education beyond high school can make a difference.

**News                                      04/21/11                                      6pm                                      : 30**

There are Health Care reductions in Westfield. Noble hospital has notified 25 full time employees their jobs will either be eliminated or reduced. In a News Release sent to 22News, Noble Hospital CEO Ronald Bryant called the reduction one more step in the process of returning Noble Hospital to financial stability. He said they've been trying to avoid

the reductions. According to their website, Noble Hospital is a 97-bed hospital with 612 employees. The jobs being cut are across the board and across departments from nursing to grounds keeping.

**News**                                      **04/22/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

It was a painful decision, based on the "business" of delivering health care in Westfield. Noble Hospital said it had no choice but to reduce its work-force in order to maintain its mission. Noble Hospital CEO Ronald Bryant said the work-force reduction is a direct effect of the economy. He said during tight financial times, people postpone seeking health care services. He said the 25 positions affected are across the board, but might have the most impact on Noble's nurses.

**News**                                      **05/06/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Labor Department report says the economy added more than 200- thousand jobs last month. That number is well above the 185-thousand jobs economists had predicted. Private employers added the most new jobs since February 2006. As of this fiscal year's third quarter, Career Point in Holyoke's placed the same number of people in jobs than were placed in all of 2009.

**News**                                      **05/16/11**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Limited funding from the state means Springfield can't keep up with rising expenses, and will have to lay-off some school staff. About 114 positions have to be cut. Half of those are teacher positions, but because of attrition, most teachers will be able to be reassigned. However the other half is para-professionals, many who will most likely lose their jobs. Educators spoke out during a public hearing on the budget today.

**News**                                      **05/17/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Urban League President Henry Thomas tells 22News that one in four of Springfield's African- Americans and Hispanics cannot find work. That's twice the city's overall jobless rate. You're mistaken if you think the ranks of the job seeking unemployed only include young people. Some of the biggest companies in the Pioneer Valley are reportedly looking for workers. That's what attracted thousands of jobless people to the Urban League's job fair today.

**News**                                      **05/19/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

How secure is your job? Massachusetts unemployment dropped to 7.8% and the state added nearly 20,000 jobs last month the one sector that lost jobs, was the Government. Finding a job is still hard. But new jobless numbers show that things are getting better. Over 4,000 new jobs in transportation last month, Health services added nearly 11,000 new jobs while Education tacked on 5,000. Jobs in science, business services and construction also saw gains. The one sector that saw decline was Government jobs with nearly every city and town facing a decline in their municipal budget. People told 22News that despite the job

growth, the high price of food and gasoline means their just one paycheck away from being out on the street. Many businesses are still scaling back their workforce and trying to consolidate resources. And for those people it can be a long wait. But experts say the job market is seeing steady growth a message for job seekers. Massachusetts has a total workforce of over 3-million-500-thousand people and state unemployment is well below the national rate of 9%.

**News**                      **05/19/11**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Massachusetts Unemployment numbers dipped below 8% for the first time in two years. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development released the April unemployment numbers today, which show the jobless rate fell to 7.8%. Labor Secretary Joanne Goldstein said the state added 19,500 jobs last month. And nationwide, the Commonwealth is growing jobs faster by 0.4%. She attributed much of the credit to the Patrick-Murray Administration, which said investments in infrastructure, education, and innovation are paying off. Secretary Goldstein also said the administration has been active in providing training and career resources across the state. Secretary Goldstein said one of the best career centers in the state is right in Springfield. So if you're looking for a job, he encourages everyone to visit the FutureWorks Career Center.

**News**                      **05/23/11**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Teens may have trouble finding a summer job this year because Massachusetts has lost thousands of summer jobs. Advocates said these summer jobs are necessary because they keep teens off the streets and teach them key employment skills. As many as 5,000 summer jobs could be lost, compared with last year due to a tighter state budget and the end of funding from the federal stimulus bill. Some local teens told 22News they've had trouble getting employed for the summer.

**News**                      **05/26/11**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

75 Western Massachusetts workers will soon be out of a job at Hasbro in East Longmeadow. Another 70 will be moved to Rhode Island. This is affecting more than just workers at the company. Western Massachusetts Business told 22News this is hurting their company as well. They say taking 145 jobs out of the state affects everyone. Hasbro is creating a new center for gaming development. They're receiving up to 1.6 million dollars in tax breaks from Rhode Island. 22News tried to contact Hasbro but none of our calls has been returned.

**News**                      **06/15/11**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Finding a seasonal job this summer is tough, especially if you're a high school or college student. Many kids came home from college a month ago with the hope of landing a job. Instead they've landed on the computer or on the couch. Summer hasn't officially started, but time is running for unemployed students to make the most of it. 22News started at Springfield College's career center for some advice. It may be the opportunity to extend their networking by special projects, or by volunteerism. Many cases this may be a good time for



them to update their resumes, things that may have been challenging for them because of the time factor. Another option is going to school. Schools like Springfield Technical Community College and other community colleges offer second session summer courses taking those can help lighten your child's course load in the fall. Instead of going back to school and having four or five classes you can do that difficult physics or calculus class by itself. It's also a chance to hone some professional skills or turn a weakness like public speaking or typing into strength. In the summer we offer things like EMT courses, CPR courses, personal or upgrading office 2010 classes so we have short classes as well as the full semester class. Starting a healthy exercise kick is another way to get off the couch, but the key is to develop a plan and follow through with it. Being productive you can define in a lot of different ways, I'm sure for many of them it is a challenge, but with challenge there is an opportunity. There are many options out there, but if you don't act now, you'll be heading back to school before you know it.

**News**                                      **06/21/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

A promising sign for Springfield's South End, despite taking a direct hit from the June first tornado, Caring Health Center is moving forward with its 18.7 million dollar Main Street expansion. Insurance covered enough of their repairs to continue the project. Not only will the new center create 125 new health care positions and dozens of construction jobs it will be a model for others to rebuild.

**News**                                      **06/22/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Unemployment benefits will end next month for thousands of people who are out of work in Massachusetts. The federal government no longer offers extended assistance to Massachusetts because the unemployment rate's been below 8-percent for three consecutive months. The news is concerning to people who have been out of work for awhile.

**News**                                      **06/22/11**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

It's a tight job market. More people are looking for fewer jobs. Elms College hosted a job fair today. June Liberty is the Director of Operations for Johnson and Hill Staffing and said your keys tailoring your resume and cover letter to each job you apply for. But the number one problem Liberty sees seems like common sense. The best thing we can tell people when going for an interview is to dress appropriately for the jobs they are applying for to be prepared for the interview know your facts about the company, just simply looking up on their website sometimes doing some background research. Liberty said more often than not, people just send in generic resumes and do not do their homework.

**News**                                      **06/29/11**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A recent report finds a mismatch in the Massachusetts labor market. Slow population growth and a lack of middle-skill workers prove to be an upcoming challenge for the Massachusetts labor force. Middle skills workers are those with community college education or an associate's degree like nurses, teacher's assistants and computer support specialists. As

Massachusetts shifts away from traditional manufacturing jobs toward innovation and tech sectors, employers are demanding more formal education or training. With a growing immigrant population, policy researchers suggest focusing on aiding their educational ambitions. Policy researchers say most immigrants either have a low or high skill set, so the challenge will be to invest in low-skilled workers to train them in middle skill tasks. Currently, the healthcare sector is in high demand for middle-skill workers and the lack of them could mean a slower economic recovery for Massachusetts.